

CANCER COMMISSION REPORTS

The Purpose of the California Medical Association Cancer Commission.—At the San Francisco annual session of 1931, the House of Delegates of the California Medical Association brought into existence a Cancer Commission. That commission, as the representative of the organized medical profession of California, was to have as its work the promotion and furtherance of all efforts that would aid in the fight against cancer, with special reference to California. From the start it was sensed that no continuous and efficient service could be rendered by the commission unless central headquarters were provided. To attain that end the California Medical Association Council rented additional office room and authorized the employment of adequate clerical assistance.

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The Personnel of the California Medical Association Cancer Commission.—The personnel of the cancer commission is listed in the directory of officers which is printed in every issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. The commission created for itself a northern and a southern group to permit easier holding of conferences. Both groups have been active and, with the aid of advisory members representing the different specialties and fields of medicine, much investigation and exchange of viewpoints have been made. All who have participated in these conferences, by correspondence and otherwise, have been benefited. It may be stated also that members of the profession who have had a part in the studies of the commission are beginning more and more to harmonize their concepts concerning cancer and, what is more important, on what should be done to combat it most efficiently. As studies take on a form to permit of publicity to the entire profession, reports will be formulated and printed in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

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Report of the Committee on Gynecologic Tumors.—In this August issue the Cancer Commission, through its Committee on Gynecologic Tumors, presents a report, the first of a series to be brought out by committees dealing with different phases of the cancer problem. In the preparation of this report colleagues who are members of the California Medical Association and who are in practice in different parts of California have given valuable aid. The report is called to the attention of readers of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE because it deals with an important subject and presents suggestions worthy of serious consideration by all members of the profession who may be called upon to advise patients having such tumors. The Cancer Commission is to be congratulated for having got its work so well under way. Members of the California Medical Association will look forward with increased interest to other reports which are to follow. (See page 131 for Report.)

COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETIES AND HEALTH SERVICE COSTS

The Problem of Medical Care to Persons of Moderate Means.—Plans on how to give efficient medical care to lay fellow citizens who possess only modest financial resources have found much space in recent medical literature. All who have given thought to the problems involved agree on the need of better adjustments than now exist, both as regards the lay public and the medical profession. This is one of the major problems which led the House of Delegates of the California Medical Association to bring its Department of Public Relations into existence.

At the last two annual sessions of the California Medical Association, costs of illness problems were much stressed and the papers presented were printed in the official journal; the September 1931 issue containing a symposium of such contributions. President Harris of the American Medical Association, in his retiring address several years ago, emphasized the desirability of utilizing county medical units as the basic organizations in the solution of the problem. In the July CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 11, Doctor Brown of San Francisco presented a plan which also used county medical units as possible and desirable agencies for the inauguration of medical service to persons of moderate means, at prices within the financial resources of such citizens. The Santa Clara County Medical Society has been studying a somewhat similar plan which was submitted to the California Medical Association Council at its recent May 5 and 28 meetings. The possible utilization of county medical society resources is therefore something worthy of consideration. All members of the California Medical Association are members of component county societies and should be interested in such plans. The text and table presented in Doctor Brown's paper are commended to the perusal and consideration of members who have not read it.

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Suggestions Welcomed by California Medical Association Department of Public Relations.—Letters of approval, criticism, or suggestions of that and other plans will be welcomed by the California Medical Association Department of Public Relations. That committee in its consideration of these medico-economic problems is anxious to obtain from members of component county societies throughout California their viewpoints on possible ways and means of procedure. Every member of the California Medical Association who has pondered this subject is invited to communicate with the department.

ANTIVIVISECTION PHOBIA

San Francisco Has an Antivivisectionist Experience.—Recently, in San Francisco, Director of Public Health Geiger suggested that a small number of the some 4,500 dogs uselessly destroyed in that city each year should be sent for experi-